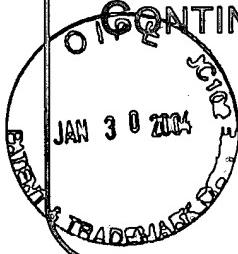


#9 RCE/2700
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL <small>Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</small>	 Application Number 09/534,915 Filing Date March 23, 2000 First Named Inventor Mark B. Whipple Art Unit 2141 Examiner Name A.M. Mirza Attorney Docket Number 020431.0563
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This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on December 30, 2003 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.117(i) required)
- b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-0384
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Check in the amount of \$770.00 is enclosed for the RCE Fee
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print / Type)	Christopher W. Kennerly	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	40,675
Signature	<i>Christopher W. Kennerly</i>	Date	January 30, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as US Express Mail #EV324647781US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office shown below.

Name (Print / Type)	Willie Jiles	Date	January 30, 2004
Signature	<i>Willie Jiles</i>	Date	January 30, 2004

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

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